

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB-6015 4 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--July 1986

I. GENERAL

- 1. Final installation preparations are underway in the Embassy Budget and Finance Office for the establishment of an Abidjan-based regional Financial Management Center (FMC). Though no date for final installation has been set, a U.S. disbursing officer has been assigned and is now at post. Once the FMC is in place, the disbursement needs of this post as well as those of other CFA-currency posts will be handled here rather than at the Paris RAMC.
- 2. The dollar continued a downward trend during the month, with a high of 351 CFA to the dollar at the beginning of July and a low of 344 by month's end. The average exchange rate for July 1985 was 447 CFA to the U.S. dollar.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. The long-awaited Ivory Coast cabinet reshuffle was announced finally on 8 July by Minister for Information, Culture Youth, and Sports, Laurent Dona Fologo. The new cabinet consists of 40 ministers in all, including 9 ministers of state without portfolios and 3 ministers with portfolios, of which 12 are new. The offices of the ambassador, DCM, Political/Economics Section, and other embassy consumers were notified immediately and the cabinet list was read over the telephone to Ambassador Miller by the bureau deputy chief.
- 2. Most of the African countries which are members of the Commonwealth joined in a boycott of this year's Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh, Scotland in protest of Great Britain's refusal to impose economic sanctions on South Africa. The boycott was spearheaded by Nigeria, black Africa's most populous country and its defacto spokesman, which was soon joined by the other member countries in the bureau's coverage area -- The Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, and

Sierre Leone. The boycott was accompanied by strong criticism of Britain's stance and policy concerning South Africa from the government, private sector, and media of the various countries.

3. The 44th OAU Council of Ministers meeting, preparatory to the 22nd OAU summit of heads of government and state, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-26 July. The main topics of discussion were South Africa -- including the issue of sanctions and support for the liberation struggle for black majority -- and the economic plight of the continent. The ministers issued strong criticism of the West, specifically Great Britain, the United States, France, and West Germany, over their refusal to impose sanctions on South Africa.

The 22nd OAU summit was held from 28-30 July. The first order of business was the election of Congo's Denis Sassou-Nguesso as new chairman succeeding Senegal's Abdou Diouf. Like the ministerial meeting, the summit focused mainly on the situation in southern Africa and adopted a resolution condemning the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, and Israel.

4. On 8 July, AFP announced plans for a major reorganization of the agency and the elimination of 300 jobs by the end of 1988. Workers went on a 24-hour strike at 1000 GMT on 10 July, however, AFP continued to transmit items intermittently and at a much reduced rate. AFP transmissions returned to normal at 1000 GMT on 11 July, but later in the day the workers decided to launch a 48-hour strike beginning at 0800 GMT on 15 July. The strike was extended an additional 48-hours on 17 July and finally ended on 19 July in time for regularly scheduled sign-on at 0700 GMT with AFP management and workers reaching an agreement.

III. ADMINISTRATION

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l. Deputy Bureau Chief for Washington PCS and homeleav on 14 July, assuming duties as	
2. Editor	departed for Bangkok on 31 July.
Her replacement,	arrived at post on 15 July.

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3. Staff Engineer returned from CONUS R&R on
8 July. TDY Engineer who had served for 8 weeks
in absence, departed for Headquarters on 10 July.
4. Monitor was selected to participate
in the Foreign National Orientation Program which will be held in
Washington 8-12 September. This is the first time in 3 years that
an Abidjan Bureau monitor has been selected for the program.
5. Senior Communications Operator received a
PSI effective 20 July.
IV. VISITS
1. Ambassador Robert Miller and Deputy Chief of Mission
Carl Cundiff, both of whom departed post on 3 August, visited the
bureau during the last week of July to bid farewell to the staff.
Ambassador Miller will go on to the position of Vice President of
the National Defense University. Mr. Cundiff will be director of
State Department's Office of Food Policy and Programs.
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2. The new Deputy Chief of Mission, Vincent Farley, met
bureau employees when he visited on 28 July as part of his intro-
duction to mission components.
V. POST ACTIVITIES
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1. On 15 July, the Government of the Ivory Coast gave its
agrement to the appointment of Dennis Kux as the new Ambassador
to the Ivory Coast. President Reagan announced his intention to
nominate Mr. Kux on 25 July. If approved by the Senate, Mr. Kux
is expected to arrive at Post in mid-September.
2. The departure of and
and the arrival of and
were feted at a gala FBIS Hall and Farewell party
nosted by and his wife, and
on 19 July. Some 70 guests were in attendance, including the
Deputy Chief of Mission.

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3. The bureau chief participated in a JAO Orientation Program for new arrivals at post which included briefings by all the major mission components.

Chief,	Abidjan	Bureau	

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Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

Abidjan Bureau Production Report for July 1986

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